1: Anonymous U-4 (no date)1938 RB1 Baltic States

B. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL

INTRODUCTION

THE three Baltic States cover an area of rather more than 65,000 square miles, and are thus slightly larger than England and Wales. The country is for the most part flat, and rarely rises much more than seven or eight hundred feet above sea-level, except in the so-called Lithuanian heights in the south-east of Lithuania. For the most part, also, the soil is of glacial origin, consisting partly of sand, mixtures of sand and clay, sometimes very fertile, and pure clay, which is often waterlogged. There are thus numerous marshes, heaths, bogs, and lakes. The three States lie roughly between latitudes 54° and 60° N., but the continental nature of the country renders the winters long and hard; there is a comparatively heavy snowfall, and even the large rivers such as the Nemunas (Niemen), the Daugava (Dvina), and the Lielupe (Aa) become frozen. Much of the country, especially where the soil is sandy, is covered with timber. Few mineral deposits except the shale of Estonia are yet of any commercial importance.

The total population of the three States is just over 5½ million.[1] The density is greatest in Lithuania; that of Latvia and Estonia is only just over half that of Lithuania. Lithuania, also, has by far the largest excess of births over deaths, though in all three countries the excess of births has tended to decline since the years immediately after the War. Lithuania, however, still has, after Poland, the highest birth-rate in Northern Europe. Yet in none of the three countries is there any great concentration of the population, and only three towns have a population of more than 100,000, namely the capital cities Riga (385,000), Tallinn (140,000), and Kaunas (105,000).[2] But though there are few large towns, the proportion of the population dependent on agriculture varies considerably. Of the persons gainfully occupied in Lithuania nearly 77 per cent. are engaged in agriculture, whereas the figure for Latvia is 66 per cent., and that for Estonia only 60 per cent.

[1] For population and vital statistics see Appendix I.

[2] The population of the other principal towns according to the latest figures is as follows:

Tartu	59,000	Siauliai	24,000
Liepāja	57,000	Narva	24,000
Daugavpils	45,000	Panevezys	21,000
Memel	38,000	Pārnu	21,000
Jelgava	34,000	Ventspils	16,000

Cf. Great Yarmouth 56,769, Gravesend 35,490, Canterbury 24,450.

APPENDIX I

POPULATION

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1. *Population, Area, and Density*

	Estonia	*Latvia*	*Lithuania*
Date of census	1.3.34	12.2.35	1.1.36*
Population	1,126,000	1,951,000	2,527,000
Area (square miles)	18,353	25,395	21,489
Density (inhabitants per square mile)	61	77	118

* Official estimate only.

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2. *Vital Statistics*

	Annual birth-rate per 1,000 inhabitants	*Annual death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants*	*Annual excess of births per 1,000 inhabitants*
Estonia:			
1921–5 average	29·6	15·5	4·1
1926–30 „	17·6	16·5	1·1
1931–5 „	16·5	14·9	1·6
1936	16·1	15·6	0·5
Latvia:			
1921–5 average	22·1	14·8	7·3
1926–30 „	20·7	14·8	5·9
1931–5 „	18·3	13·9	4·4
1936	18·1	14·1	4·0
Lithuania:			
1922–5 average	28·3	16·4	11·9
1926–30 „	28·1	16·2	11·9
1931–5 „	25·4	14·6	10·8
1936	24·1	13·3	10·8

3. *Occupations*

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(Numbers employed in various occupations expressed as a percentage of those gainfully occupied.)

	Estonia (1934)	*Latvia (1930)*	*Lithuania (1936)*
Agriculture	60·2	66·2	76·7
Industry	17·8	13·5	6·4
Commerce	5·1	5·2	2·5
Transport	3·5	3·3	1·1
Other (public and domestic service, liberal professions, &c.)	13·4	11·8	13·3
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0

2: Anonymous G-4,5 (no date) 1939 RB1 Baltic Countries RB1
Estonians R64

WAGES IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

BC 101 FOUR Baltic countries—Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania—are related to one another not only by their geographical location on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea but also by their historical background, for they all belonged to the former Russian Empire. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were merely provinces of that empire, but Finland was an autonomous state, although with considerably restricted autonomy.

BC 261 Of these countries, Finland is the largest in territory and population, having about 3,365,000 inhabitants, while Estonia is the smallest, with about 1,127,000 inhabitants.

BC 105 511 The level of industrial development and relations and of educational standards in the Baltic countries more nearly resembles that of Scandinavian than of any other European group of countries.[1] Also, although wages are lower in the Baltic countries, it is generally agreed that the cost of living is also lower than in the Scandinavian countries.

Wages in Estonia[2]

E 465 745 The wage rates as indicated in the following tables represent the wages as received by workers, and include deductions for sickness and accident insurance. For sickness insurance, the deduction is 2 percent of the wages, to which the employer adds 4 percent. For insurance against accident no deduction is made, but 1 percent is contributed to the insurance fund by the employer alone.

AGRICULTURE

E 465 241 The shortage of farm laborers in 1937 affected the wage situation in Estonian agriculture, causing the wages to rise. Thus, for example, the average monthly wages of male farm hands employed on a yearly contract increased from 22.10 krooni [3] in 1936 to 27.20 krooni in 1937, or 23 percent. For females the increase was 22 percent, their average monthly wage rate for 1937 being 19.50 krooni. Farm workers employed on a summer contract were paid the following average monthly wages in 1937: Male laborers, 38.10 krooni, female laborers 27.10 krooni, and herders 19.80 krooni, representing increases of 23 percent, 22 percent, and 19 percent from the corresponding figures for 1936. Table 1 gives the wages for farm laborers in 1937, employed on both yearly and summer contracts, according to age. Averages for workers aged 18 to 50 are also shown by years from 1933 to 1937.

[1] See Monthly Labor Review, November 1938, pp. 1133-1144: Wages and Hours in Scandinavian Countries, 1927-38.

[2] Report of Edward Hunt, clerk of American Consulate at Tallinn.

[3] Kroon (100 senti) in 1936 to 1938—about 27 cents, U. S. currency.

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5
Baltic Countries RB1

TABLE 5

POPULATION DENSITY IN THE BALTIC STATES

	AREA (*Sq. mi.*)	POPULATION	INHABITANTS PER SQ. MI.
Lithuania until March 22, 1939	21,489	2,575,363	117.6
Lithuania after loss of Klaipeda (Memel) Territory	20,389	2,421,570	118.6
Lithuania after the return of Vilnius	22,958	2,879,070	125.4
Latvia (in 1938)	25,395 [a]	1,971,000	78.7 [c]
Estonia (in 1938)	18,354 [b]	1,131,000	61.6 [d]

[a] 65,791 sq. km.
[b] 47,549 sq. km.
[c] 30 per sq. km.
[d] 23.8 per sq. km.

Lithuania has rich deposits of chalk which prove satisfactory for the making of cement, lime, and alabaster, but this industry is still undeveloped. Clay, suited for the ceramic industry, is to be found all over the country, while the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea has been known since ancient times for its amber, "northern gold."

CLIMATE

The climate of Lithuania is of the modified humid continental type. The average temperature is 6.5° Celsius (43.7° Fahrenheit), the warmest month being July, with an average temperature 18.3° Celsius (64.9° F.), and the coldest, January, with an average temperature of 4.8° Celsius below zero (23.4° F.). The ground is frozen for about four months.[21]

[21] C.S.B., S. Biul. 10, 1938, pp. 5–12.

2: Milosz S-5 (no date)1953 El Europe
Balt Countries KE
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197 that two different languages entered into use there: the masters, that is the landholders, spoke German (in Estonia and Latvia) and Polish (in Lithuania) in part because the newcomers brought with them their own language and customs, and in part because the local nobility adopted them. The common people, however, spoke their native tongue and preserved their cultural heritage from a legendary past. After the First World War, these three countries ceased to be provinces of the Russian Tsardom and became independent. Radical agrarian reforms curbed the influence of the great landowners. The native tongues became the official languages, while literature and education restored popular traditions.

• 161 In 1939, the population of these three states numbered
241 about six million, that is, a little more than the population of Chile, a little less than that of Sweden. They were agricultural countries whose economies were maintained by a well-organized exportation of bacon, eggs, butter, grain, and fowl to Western Europe. In this, as well as in other respects, they resembled Denmark. Whoever knows the patterns of farming life can easily picture the mode of existence of these Baltic regions. A widespread system of
511 cooperatives helped the farmer sell his products. His standard of living, judging by his appearance, his house and his diet, was higher than that of the Slavonic countries,
162 with the possible exception of Czechoslovakia. Most Es-
186 tonians and Latvians were Protestant; most Lithuanians, Catholic. All three nations were characterized by obstinate patriotism, or even chauvinism—which is understandable in terms of their hard past. Militarily, all three were defenseless.

175 The fate of these states was decided in the talks between
648 Molotov and Ribbentrop. In the fall of 1939, Molotov demanded military bases; the Baltic governments hurried